

The increased consolidation of radio station ownership in recent years has had far-reaching negative repercussions on our nation's airwaves, on the unique American tradition of radio diversity and on many working professionals' ability to gain access to the public airwaves.

As huge corporate entities have gobbled up stations and whole markets, radio in America has gone from an institution reflecting our country's heart and soul to a homogenized, mediocre insult to our ears. A few remaining rules are in place to keep the public airwaves from being completely taken over by corporate powers. I am concerned that increased concentration of media ownership will have an even greater negative impact on access to diverse content, articulate viewpoints and will impede the functioning of our democracy.

I understand that a ruling by the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit has required the FCC to show "empirical evidence" that the rules are necessary, or they must be revoked. There is ample empirical evidence that these rules are necessary and, more importantly, overwhelming proof that the public would like the limits to be held in place. The proof is in what you hear—more specifically, it is what you DON'T hear as you scan the radio dial these days. Our nation is comprised of the most creative, talented musicians, singers, writers, personalities in the world. Very little of their talent makes it to the airwaves, which are instead saturated by the sounds of a handful of corporate-sponsored acts promoting products made by the same people who want to own the public airwaves.

Please do not let this happen.